



“For God and Country”

June 2024 POST 3 NEWSLETTER



Meetings For June 2024

Organization	Location	Time	Date
Legion Post 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	06/11/24
Auxiliary Unit 3	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	7:00 PM	06/11/24
SAL Squadron 3	Post 3 Office, 123 S 84 th St	7:00 PM	06/13/24
ALR Chapter 3	Denton Legion Club	6:00 PM	06/20/24
40 & 8 Voiture 103	Elks Lodge, 5910 S 58 th St	6:30 PM	06/18/24
8 & 40 Salon 832	Elks Lodge, 5910 s 58 th St	6:30 PM	06/18/24
8 & 40 Salon 92	VFW 3606, 3340 West A St	1:00 PM	06/20/24
Buddy Check	Rock-n-Joe, 5025 Lindburg St	6:00 PM	06/22/24
CoffeeHaus	Auld Pavilion, Antelope Park	10:00 AM	06/21/24

Commander's Call



Flag Day in the United States is observed on Friday, June 14th.

Although Flag Day is a nationwide observance, it is not a legal holiday. I'd like to take a few moments of your time and talk about our amazing American Flag. As a Veteran, I think we can all agree that the American Flag is not just a piece of fabric. The Flag of the United States represents freedom. It has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. It is symbolic of the fabric of our society as a nation. It has been carried far and wide as a symbol of American pride, all the while serving as an emblem of the freedoms we hold dear.

There have been 27 versions of the American Flag. Our first flag, in 1777, had 13 stars and 13 stripes representing the American colonies. Each time a state was added to the union, a star was added. We, of course, now stand with 50 stars and 13 stripes. The current Flag is the only one to have lasted more than 60 years. The Flag can be displayed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Flag can be displayed from sunrise to sunset (unless there's inclement weather), and, if flown at night, all that needs to be added is proper illumination of the Flag so it can be seen in the dark. The colors were carefully chosen. The Red, White and Blue did not just happen by accident.

Our Founding Fathers wanted the colors to have meaning, not just look visually pleasing. Red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence and blue represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The Flag that flew at Ft. McHenry, immortalized by Francis Scott Key in his song, The Star-Spangled Banner, our national anthem, is still around. It is on display at Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. Five American Flags made it to the moon. You have probably seen Neil Armstrong on the moon with an American Flag, but he is not the only one to plant one on the surface of the moon. Apollo missions 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17, each included an astronaut placing a flag on the moon.

The Flag can touch the ground and still be used. There is a myth that once a Flag touches the ground it needs to be burned or disposed of. That's not entirely true. If a Flag is soiled or touches the ground, it can be washed or otherwise cleaned and continue to be used. Flags should be disposed of in a "dignified manner." If an American Flag is damaged beyond repair and you need to dispose of it, you can burn it with dignity or give it to a local Veterans Service Organization (i.e., American Legion Post 3, DAV, VFW, etc.) for a dignified Flag disposal.

The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation to call on government officials in the USA to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on Flag Day and to urge US residents to observe Flag Day as the anniversary of the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official Flag of the United States.

I hope you will join me in displaying "Old Glory" from your home or business on June 14th.

I'm sharing with you a poem, written by journalist John J. Daly in 1917, entitled "A Toast to The Flag." Some of you may have heard me recite this poem at various functions.



A Toast to the Flag

By John J. Daly - 1917

Here's to the red of it--
There's not a thread of it,
No, nor a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head.
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it--
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it,
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so white!

Here's to the blue of it--
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star-spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the blue!

Here's to the whole of it--
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shinning through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red White and Blue!

As always, keep our veterans in your thoughts and prayers, particularly those who may be in need. Keep our active-duty service men and women in your thoughts and prayers as well. May God continue to Bless America, and all who keep Her free.

For God and Country,

Bruce Gubser
Post 3 Commander

Notes from the Adjutant's Desk



2024 Renewals:

Renewals for 2024; currently stand at 96%, 1066

You can renew now for 2024 at the current rate of \$46.00 dollars. Department dues will probably increase by \$5.00, and National dues will go up \$5.00 on July 1st. Post 3 chose not to take any dues increase. After July 1st, dues will be \$56.00. I am not sure if you will still be able to renew at the 2024 rate after July 1st. Have not received any guidance from National on this question. Not sure if this will be the case, but to be on the safe side, if you have not renewed, I would do so by June 15.th

You can save up to \$30.00 dollars on dues if you log onto MyLegion and take the opportunity to renew for the next 3 years. Currently 27 members have taken advantage of this offer. This saving is only available to those who paid their 2024 dues online. If you have any questions, please call the office and we will try and help you complete the process.

If you have not received your 2024 membership cards, and you mailed your payment, please let us know. Mail does get lost or damaged, going both ways. We try to get cards out within a day or two of receipt of payment.

Thanks to those who have made use of the MyLegion web site to renew their membership. It is quick and easy; you can even print your own 2024 membership card.

Member Information

We would like to thank those who have provided the request for mailing address/ phone/emails information. We have many members who have moved, and we do not have a correct mailing address/phone number or an email address. The US Postal service returns mail that does not have a forwarding address. We try to track down those members who have moved. Many locations respond with, "no longer living here." Same goes for those members who have passed on to Post Everlasting. If your member has died, please let us know. This saves National and Post postage on renewals, etc. which are returned to the Post.

National has been printing on the back of the renewal slips, the data that is in the Legion database. Please check and add as needed so we can correct our database. Thanks, makes it so much easier to reach out to you if needed.

(Adjutant's Remarks – Continued)

The Honor Guard

On April 24th, Post 3 provided a color guard for “Our Community Salutes”, to honor those High School graduates who have enlisted for military service following graduation this spring.

May is always a busy month for the Post 3 Honor Guard, as we are called upon to provide details for Memorial events to honor our fellow veterans living in retirement or nursing homes. Memorial Day is also a busy day for the Honor Guard, plus the week leading up to Memorial Day.

This would be the time to review your memorial plans with the family. Locate your DD214 or other discharge papers. You have earned the right to burial in a VA cemetery or request a VA headstone for a private cemetery. You can do all this now by going to the VA web site and filling out the forms. If you need assistance, see your local service officer, or give me a call. Be sure to tell your family your plans and where to find your DD214, etc.

Department of Veterans Affairs and VFW web sites

Both web sites are a great place to find current and helpful information on what Congress is currently working on and how it could affect you as a veteran. The VA website has many tips on filling claims and links to other VA services to which you are entitled. VA News <veteransaffairs@messages.va.gov>

The VFW does an excellent job of keeping track of Congressional activities that can or will affect veterans. VFW Action Corps vfwac@vfw.org via votervoice.net

Again, Thanks for your Service and Thanks for being a member of Post 3,

Remember to thank your fellow Veterans for their service and thank you for your service.

Ed Schnabel

Adjutant

Lincoln CBOC/VA News



The Lincoln Clinic has served 11,397 veterans. 9% of veterans served were female veterans. 58% of veterans served are 65+ years old.

On an average day, the clinic serves 394 veterans. During FY23, 315 new veterans enrolled for service at the Lincoln campus.

A new service is being added; An Orthopedic Clinic is now seeing veterans in Lincoln.

Express Care, a walk-in service, for those who wish to have a nurse check out minor items. This care is available to those who might wish to see a VA nurse without an appointment during normal hours. Express Care hours have expanded from 0830 to 1900 at the Lincoln clinic.

Flu shots and Covid shots are currently being given, you need to call the clinic to schedule an appointment. VA clinics and hospitals no longer require the wearing of masks to enter clinics. Masks are available for those who still wish to wear them.

Want to serve your fellow Veterans? The VA can use more volunteers at your local clinic or hospital. You volunteer to help veterans in the clinic or hospital, or a veteran home. Or you can donate to your local clinic, hospital, or veteran's home. They can always use a monetary donation, or you can donate activities bags for younger kids to have when they come to the clinic / hospital with a parent for their appointments. There is always a need for the younger kids who come with parents, grandparents, when too young to be left at home alone.

Clinics/hospitals can always use books, magazines, etc. for patients. You would need to check with the clinic/veteran's home volunteer office to see what items they need or allow. This would be a great project for your church, school, or youth group.

With the signing of the PAC Act, more veterans have become eligible for services, not only for those who served boots on the ground, but anyone who has served since the Gulf War. If you have any questions, call your local service officer, VSO, county, or state. Only takes a few minutes to see if you might qualify for an increase, or a new VA disability rating.

Volunteer Services, Lincoln, CBOC, is looking into adding more services for our Veterans. Services like we had in the old Clinic; cookies, popcorn, coffee, etc.

Thanks for you service to your fellow Veterans and thanks for your service to this great country.

God Bless,

**Ed Schnabel
American Legion Representative to Lincoln CBOC**

The Chaplain's Remarks



EARTH--PRESENT DAY—This seemingly wonderful land of plenty, on whatever hemisphere, continent, or on the sea, is a gift from God (Genesis 1:28). He expects us to husband this world in His stead, as He laid out in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). So, what happens when a tenant defies their landlord's lease agreement? She or he must leave, or renew their lease.

If the Bible is the original contract by which humankind exists in harmony with their Creator, what happens to humankind when we break our part of the bargain? Think of it as a covenant between us and God. He made us (i.e., our bodies), formed us (i.e., our personality/behavior/ego), and created us (i.e., His spirit connection), as listed in Genesis 2:7.

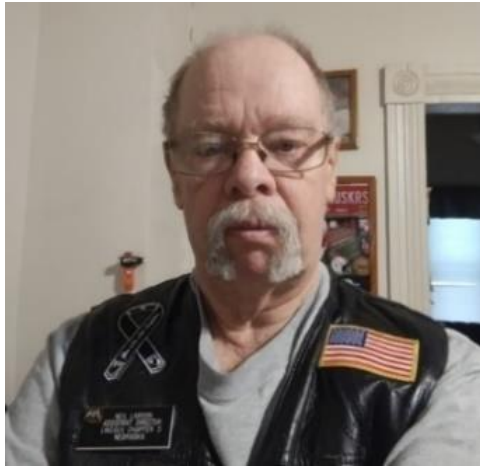
What we owe God now is our heartfelt worship for not only creating us, but sustaining us through the ups-n-downs of our current struggles.

The spectre of death should not be the guiding light of whom God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. Death is merely a go-between to God's world (Hebrews 9:27), not an end game that Lucifer wants us to follow (Ephesians 2:2).

Consider that God put us here for His pleasure, company, and plans that only He knows (Jeremiah 29:11). Why would He renegade on a promise that only He could fulfill? If you still aren't convinced of God's uncompromising love for you, how about that grandchild being born of your son or daughter, your wife or husband, and don't forget that wonderfully "crazy" aunt or uncle of yours. Why not give God a break and take Him up on His offer? What do you have to lose, besides being forgiven?

**Rev. Dr. William Jackson
ALP 3 Chaplain**

ALR Riders, Chapter 3 Director's Remarks



Just a few things happening with the Riders this month. On May 14th we participated in a flag line for a veteran in Lincoln. Some of us escorted this veteran to the Omaha National Cemetery May 15th.

Memorial Day weekend was a bit busy for us. On the 25th, several members rode to Omaha to ride in the Patriotic Productions parade. Pictured below is a chip I received from the 1st Infantry Division Mounted Color Guard stationed at Ft Riley, Kansas. The group also participated in the parade on the 25th.

On the 27th, some of us participated in the cemetery trek hosted by the VFW. Later we attended the cemetery observance at Wyuka Cemetery. We finished the day by participating in the observance ceremony at Lincoln Memorial Park.

Just another reminder of our poker run September 22, registration begins at 10:00 am. The event starts and ends at Frontier Harley-Davidson dealership. We still have some tickets available for the rifle raffle to be held towards the end of the poker run.

Neil Larson
Director,
American Legion Riders, Chapter 3



Lincoln Chapter 3 Riders' Henry Golden Boy .22 LR Rifle



Lincoln Chapter 3
American Legion Riders



RAFFLE

HENRY GOLDEN BOY RIFLE, .22LR



TICKETS ARE \$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

Drawing held 9-22-2024 YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

YOU MUST BE OLDER THAN 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE A TICKET

PRIZE WILL BE TRANSFERED TO THE WINNER THROUGH NEBRASKA GUN OF LINCOLN,
NEBRASKA, A FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARM DEALER

ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL FIREARM PURCHASE LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY

Post 3 Honor Guard



In May, The Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 10 funerals and made appearances at 7 civic functions. Civic functions included: Memorial Day appearances at retirement facilities, Scheels Flag exchange, Color Guard at a Legion baseball game, and participating in Memorial Day programs at Wyuka and Lincoln Memorial Cemeteries.

In the Calendar year 2024, the Honor Guard assisted the Military Honors Teams at 35 funerals and made appearances at 19 civic functions.

The effort the Honor Guard makes to honor our deceased veterans and for appearances at local civic functions are greatly appreciated. I want to thank everyone involved for their continued support.

Post 3 TAPS – April 2024



LEGIONNAIRE	WAR ERA	BRANCH	YEARS
Ronald D. Erickson	Vietnam	Army	48
Russell R. Kendle	Vietnam	USMC	54
Thomas Mills	Korea	Air Force	52
Gene R. Niebuhr	Vietnam	Army	1
Michael Royce	Vietnam	Navy	7

Regular Meeting of American Legion Post 3

Lincoln Elks Lodge #80

May 14, 2024

Commander Bruce Gubser opened the May 14, 2024, meeting of American Legion Post 3 at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 with about 15 Legionnaires, 8 Auxiliary members, and 1 guest present.

Prior to conducting any business, Commander Gubser introduced Mike Wood of the Lincoln Vet Center for counseling and outreach. He gave a talk on the background of the center, the extent of its affiliation with the VA, and a summary of the services it offers to veterans in the Lincoln area.

Commander Gubser introduced Timothy Sweeny, an Air Force veteran and new member to Post 3 and he spoke briefly on his background.

Veterans of the various war eras (including a WW II veteran) were asked to stand and be recognized.

The minutes of the April 9, 2024, meeting were read and approved.

Ed Schnabel gave the financial report for the month ending April 30, 2024, showing a balance on hand of \$38,136.95. Upon proper motion, the report was filed for review.

Ed also commented that he had received a call from someone in a Lincoln senior living center thanking Post 3 for the birthday card he had recently received.

Steve Bartos reported that he had been notified that an additional boy from Lincoln Southwest had been sponsored by Havelock Post 342 to attend Cornhusker Boys State. There are now 13 boys from the Lincoln area scheduled to attend.

Gerry Wolf reported that he and Ed Schnabel had attended the Chancellor's Review at the University of Nebraska and handed out 24 certificates and medals for military excellence and scholarship. He said that they also attended a ceremony at Lincoln Northeast High School and presented 2 medals there to cadets in their Air Force Junior ROTC program.

(Minutes – Continued)

Gerry Wolf also reported that several members of the Honor Guard had presented the colors or otherwise attended the “Our Community Salutes” program recently held in Lincoln. It was reported that it was a very large event that honored high school seniors who had recently enlisted in the armed forces.

Gerry Wolf reported that the Honor Guard is getting geared up for all the activities around Memorial Day. He also pointed out that Scheel’s would be sponsoring their annual “flag exchange” on May 24th.

Commander Gubser reported for the Legion Riders, indicating that quite a few activities were planned in the coming weeks. The 40/8 meets next Tuesday. The Birthday Card program continues.

Steve Bartos reported that Curt Sanford had been hospitalized recently. He is recuperating from a spine injury suffered in a fall.

Adjutant Schnabel reported that we had 13 delegate cards allotted to us for the Department Convention and those planning to attend needed to see him.

Commander Gubser announced that nominations for next year’s officers take place at the May meeting. He then introduced Gerry Wolf, who he had appointed to chair the nomination committee. The nominating committee reported the following individuals had been nominated as follows:

Commander --- Bruce Gubser

1st Vice Commander --- Ron Hindmand

2nd Vice Commander --- Rich Lemmerman

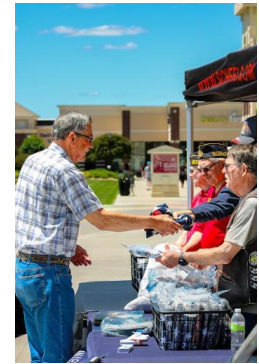
3-Year Term on the Executive Committee --- Fred Craigie

Commander Gubser then asked for any additional nominations from the floor, and there were none. Nominations were closed, and the formality of electing this slate of candidates will take place at the June meeting.

Steve Bartos presented the TAPS report, and the meeting was closed in proper form at about 7:40 PM.

**Steve Bartos
Recorder**

Flag Exchange at Scheels Sporting Goods



On Saturday, May 25th, Scheels, in partnership with The American Legion Post 3 and the American Legion Riders Chapter 3, held their annual Flag Exchange. Customers were encouraged to turn in their old torn and faded American Flags and were given a new 3'X5' American made Flag. Post 3 will dispose of the old Flags in a dignified manner.

In a 3-hour span, hundreds of torn and faded Flags were turned in and new ones given out. Members from Post 3 and Chapter 3 who came out to help are too numerous to list here, but I would like to thank all who came out to help with the distribution.

In addition, I would like to thank Scheels for their excellent assistance and willingness to help. If you are thinking of purchasing some new sports clothing or equipment, I would encourage you to give Scheels a chance at your business. Scheels is a very Veteran friendly organization.

Memorial Day 2024 At Wyuka Cemetery

The ceremony at Wyuka Cemetery included a wreath casting from the historic bridge and a parade to the Old Soldier's Circle. The Lincoln Fire and Rescue/Lincoln Police Department led the parade and posted the Colors. The National Anthem was sung by Olivia Vanderford. The invocation was delivered by John Terpsma. Remarks were made by Greg Osborn and Bob Fitzsimmons. General John A Logan's General Order #11 was read. Colonel Thaddeus Fineran was the guest speaker. The GAR Circle was decorated by Girl Scout Troop 20205. The ringing of the bell was performed by the Lincoln Fire & Rescue Honor Guard. A 3-shot rifle volley was fired by The American Legion, VFW and the Civil War reenactors. The day ended with "Taps" and the retirement of the Colors.



Memorial Day 2024 At Lincoln Memorial

The VFW Color Guard opened the ceremony by posting the Colors. The National Anthem was sung by Olivia Vanderford. The invocation was delivered by John Terpsma. Welcoming remarks were made by Ed Hall. The ringing of the bell was performed by Lincoln Fire & Rescue Honor Guard. General John A. Logan's General Order #11 was read. A wreath and Battlefield cross were placed by Kwame Gyamfi and Vietnam Veteran, Gailen Young. Colonel Thaddeus Fineran was the guest speaker. The folding of the Flag and the meaning of each fold was conducted by Boy Scout Troop 456. A 3-shot rifle volley was fired by The American Legion, VFW, and the Civil War reenactors followed by "Taps " and retirement of the Colors.



Memorial Day Program At Aviva Woodlands

On May 23rd, several members of the Post 3 Honor Guard put on a short Memorial Day program for the residents of Aviva Woodlands, a retirement community. Since it was such a nice morning, the ceremony was held outside. Post 3 Commander, Bruce Gubser made some opening remarks and the Honor Guard raised the Flag while a bugle played "To the Colors". A 3-shot volley and the playing of "Taps" followed. Bruce then gave a Memorial Day speech and recited a poem, "A Toast to the Flag".



14th Annual



VETERANS FREEDOM

MUSIC FESTIVAL

SAT • JUNE 1 • 2024

10:30 AM — 6 PM

ANTELOPE PARK

7 LOCAL BANDS • ANTELOPE BANDSHELL

10:30 AM — PRESENTATION OF COLORS

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

— MARIE BARRETT

OPENING CEREMONY

11 AM — BILL CHRASIL (ELVIS)

12 PM — 3 CHORDS AND A CLOUD OF DUST

1 PM — PINKERTONES

2 PM — THE SHUCKS BROTHERS

3 PM — COLE YOUNGER AND THE RENEGADES

4 PM — MOJO FILTER

5 PM — THREE SPEED BAND

6 PM — CLOSING CEREMONY

— *TAPS* BY KEVIN MURRAY

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Food service by Knights of Columbus

UNL Dairy Store Ice Cream

Remembering Our Fallen Exhibit

Veteran Artists - Auld Pavilion

PUBLIC WELCOME

FREE PARKING & ADMISSION

(Free will donation to Peoples City Mission)

Bring Lawn Chairs, Coolers (subject to inspection) • No alcohol or pets (service animals only)

RAIN DATE: June 2, 2024

The Veterans Freedom Music Festival
is produced by the
Lincoln Veterans Advisory Group
VAGLincoln.org



PRESENTING SPONSORS:



menolith



VETERAN ART EXHIBIT

JUNE 1, 2024

11AM - 6PM



FREE ART
& MUSIC FESTIVAL

AULD PAVILLION
1650 MEMORIAL DR,
LINCOLN, NE 68508



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three-year
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Twin Brothers Reunited Again



By Hailey Paul | November 9, 2023

To say that Henry and Louie Pieper were kindred spirits would be akin to saying patriotism is a vague feeling that one has for his or her country. The Pieper boys were born into the world on 17 May 1925 as twins. They died on 19 June 1944 on the same Navy ship and at the same time just two weeks after the Normandy invasion. They experienced nearly every significant event of their lives together. But the wartime tragedy that took their lives separated them since Louie's remains were identified while Henry's body was lost in the English Channel.

With the help of a Nebraska high school student, the 19 years they shared in life are, now, finally followed by an eternity together. Seventy-four years to the day after they died, they have been reunited side by side in the Normandy American Cemetery, in Colleville-Sur-Mer, France. This story will transform two World War II names on an obituary list into real young men who sacrificed everything they had for their country.

In 2014, Vanessa Taylor was a student at Ainsworth High School in Ainsworth, Nebraska. She and her teacher, Nichole Flynn, were selected to participate in a Normandy project: Sacrifice for Freedom Albert H. Small Student & Teacher Institute that was scheduled to begin later that year. The specific objective of the team's project was to identify a "silent hero from our state," who was buried in Normandy.

(Twins – Continued)

The student-teacher team was to construct a website and to make a presentation – and to visit the actual grave of their veteran in Normandy, France. Neither Taylor nor Flynn expected the results they discovered or the significant impact their research would have on a Nebraska, patriotic family which had sacrificed two sons, brothers, and uncles to the cause during World War II.

Once the hard work of researching 70-year-old historic records began, Taylor found two unusual surname spellings in the killed-in-action lists. The two “Piepers” she discovered didn’t seem to be connected. Her curiosity aroused, she decided to find out if the two were related.

She hit paydirt when the two men turned out not only to be brothers but twin brothers. It seems that Ludwig Julius Wilhelm “Louie” Pieper and Julius Heinrich Otto “Henry” Pieper were both Navy enlisted men who had been killed on the same ship in the same tragic event. So, now, Taylor and Flynn had two silent heroes as the focus of their project. Coincidentally, the two brothers, although they had been born in South Dakota, had grown up in Taylor’s hometown in Nebraska.

Although the two brothers died together, the remains of one were found while the other’s body was listed as missing in action, and that became the enduring core of the story. The twins were born on May 17, 1925, to Otto and Anna Pieper, immigrants from Germany.

There were six children in the family, all of whom attended public school in Creston, Nebraska, and were members of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church. The family was close, but Henry and Louie in particular did everything together. In other words, if one brother was seen, so was the other one.

Sister Mary Ann Lawrence, the longest surviving sibling, and who died at the age of 88, supported the idea of the brothers being shadows of each other. “Everywhere they went, they went together,” she once said. They graduated from high school in 1942 and were the first twins in a graduating class from that school.

(Twins – Continued)

Following graduation, they went to Lincoln, Nebraska, to work for the Burlington Railroad briefly during the winter of 1942/43. At the age of 17 and with the permission of their parents, they enlisted in the Naval Reserve in Omaha in February of 1943. They were assigned the same duty station when their father requested the Navy that they serve together.

On March 7, 1943, Henry and Louie Pieper report for active duty in Omaha and are transported to the US Naval Training Station in Great Lakes, Illinois for basic training that includes physical conditioning, indoctrination, seamanship, and infantry training. While in boot camp, seamen are evaluated to qualify for various service schools.

After basic training, the brothers attend Radioman School at the University of Chicago in May of 1943. There, they learn Morse code and US Navy communications, and radio theory. They are two of 162 graduates of Radioman School in November.

The Brothers soon are assigned to Landing Ship Tank 523 (LST-523). Their next stop is the US Navy Jeffersonville Boat & Machine Company in Jeffersonville, Indiana where they board their brand-new ship for the first time. Three weeks later, they sail down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, Louisiana.

Arriving in New Orleans on February 2, 1944, the boys' ship is fully commissioned. Within a month, Henry and Louie and their ship become part of a sizable convoy of 60 to 75 ships crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The two brothers were rated as radiomen 2nd class as the Normandy campaign launched.

The LST-523 was nicknamed Stardust, and on June 6, sailed across the English Channel to the Normandy beaches. This was the first of three trips made by Stardust before its fateful day just 13 days later.

On the first voyage across the Channel, debris and high seas prevented Stardust from reaching the beaches. Men and equipment were loaded into smaller boats before the ship returned to England carrying approximately 175 Allied casualties.

(Twins – Continued)

Returning to Normandy on its second trip, Stardust reached Omaha Beach and unloaded its men. The ship took on some 200 Allied casualties and several German POWs and travelled back to England. On its third trip, almost two weeks after D-Day, Stardust was returning to Normandy when it sailed into a violent storm.

Stardust departed England for the third time on June 18, 1944, carrying men, vehicles, equipment, and explosives for the Normandy campaign as beachheads had been made and troops were moving into France. The ship approached Omaha Beach as the weather turned foul with gale-force winds early on the morning of June 19.

Stardust was one of three ships nearing the shore when the lead ship LST-27 reported that its anchor had become entangled in some wreckage beneath the water's surface. Stardust was asked to move forward to replace LST-27 position in line.

In the early afternoon of June 19, LST-523 began to approach the beach but encountered an underwater magnetic mine. The mine detonated midship. Since numerous Naval personnel were in the mess line located midship at the time, many were killed instantly.

The other two ships in line sent small boats to rescue sailors before they were lost in the cold swells of the sea. Some 20 small craft rushed to find survivors but the ship sank within minutes with as many as 200 lives lost.

In the chaos that followed the explosion, Louie's body was located, but Henry's was not. Consequently, he joined the ranks of the military personnel categorized as Missing in Action (MIA). By the end of the war, some 79,000-service people were listed as MIA. While he was on the MIA list, Henry was assigned only the designation X-9352.

Louie's body was interred in the Normandy American Cemetery. Henry's name appeared on the Walls of the Missing at the same cemetery while he was assumed to be resting at the bottom of the English Channel amidst the wreckage of his ship.

In 1961, French divers found the disintegrating form of LST-523 approximately 150 feet below the English Channel surface. The divers also discovered human remains in the radio room where Henry would have been working on the fateful day of June 19, 1944.

(Twins – Continued)

Since the radio room remains hadn't yet been identified, they were buried in a military cemetery in Belgium. When Vanessa Taylor and Nichole Flynn requested personnel files on the Pieper twins, a pathway to finally discovering X-9352's real identity was established. Ironically, the Pieper family did not know that the watery grave of LST-523 had been detected and that a radio room body had been located.

Taylor and Flynn's request for the Pieper boys' personnel files came to the attention of the Defense POW-MIA Accounting Agency that has the mission of tracking and identifying prisoners of war or soldiers who have been listed as missing in action.

The agency connected the personnel records request with the remains of six naval personnel who had been located by French divers while dismantling a ship near the coast of Omaha Beach in 1961. The remains of one body had been found in the ship's radio room. The remains of the six sailors had been buried in 1965 at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium.

Another agency involved with locating missing soldiers is the American Battle Monuments Commission. Tim Nosal of the Commission then became aware of Taylor and Flynn's record requests regarding the Pieper brothers. He's involved with gathering information on unidentified soldiers who are buried in American cemeteries no matter where they are.

He says to learn of the Taylor-Flynn research and to match it with his own records was an exceptional experience. He feels that the results of the history project research were a major step forward in solving the mystery of sailor X-9352.

Nosal went on to say that the new information from Taylor and Flynn helped the Government positively identify the remains of X-9352 as Henry Pieper in 2017. X-ray and dental records confirmed the match and because of them, a DNA match wasn't needed.

Shortly thereafter, sister Mary Ann Lawrence and her daughter were contacted by the Navy at home in Fair Oaks, California. Lawrence remarked, "I was shocked and surprised and happy." She knew exactly where her brother Henry's body should be buried.

(Twins – Continued)

Mary Ann Lawrence was always struck by how close the two Pieper twins were. Lawrence was the final surviving sibling of Henry and Louie and now has passed away, herself. Even before she died, she remembered the two Navy men who in June of 1944 knocked on neighbors' doors asking where the Pieper family lived.

Our neighbors knew we'd lost Henry and Louie before we did because everyone knows everyone else in a small town, Lawrence once explained. She'd also said about that day, "I was babysitting for somebody. I walked in, my mom was sitting in the chair, crying." Ironically, the twins had written to the family not long before they died to say that they were fine and that they were together.

That November in 2017, the Pieper family said knowing Henry was identified and buried next to his brother "...was the biggest blessing for Thanksgiving we could have possibly had." The family requested that the brothers be buried next to each other in the cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.

Louie's body was then reburied next to Henry in the American cemetery. The American Battle Monuments Commission is commended for helping to make that happen 74 years to the day after the twins were separated by the ugliness of war.

On June 19, 2018, side-by-side graves were prepared in the Normandy American Cemetery for twin brothers who had been violently killed – and separated from each other – on June 19, 1944, 74 years ago to the day. Vanessa Taylor and Nichole Flynn participated in the burial ceremony and Taylor offered a eulogy for the brothers.

Flynn said, "It was so moving and unforgettable." Henry and Louie Pieper's names are also etched on a memorial in the Creston, Nebraska cemetery, where they spent most of their lives growing up together. More than 400,000 Americans died in World War II of which 16 million served. By the end of the war, some 79,000 military personnel were still missing. That consists of those buried as unknowns with honors, those officially buried at sea and lost at sea, and those who were missing in action.

More than 72,000 military personnel officially remain unidentified today from all of America's wars. As that number slowly decreases and names are returned to the deceased, families usually relocate their relatives to cemeteries in the United States.

(Twins – Continued)

Tim Nosal of the American Battle Monuments Commission confirmed that Henry Pieper was the first missing soldier to be identified and placed in the Normandy cemetery that contains over 9,300 graves. Nosal adds, “People will be talking about the Pieper twins and visiting their graves for as long as this cemetery exists. Five million visitors come through this cemetery each year... There’s a strong message here for the world, of what these men sacrificed their lives for.”

At the June 19, 2018, burial ceremony, six Naval pallbearers respectfully carried Henry’s flag-draped casket through the white cross rows while taps were played. Members of the Pieper family sat in the first row of chairs on the grass.

Among the family members were six of Henry and Louie’s nieces and nephews they had no opportunity to meet. Louis Henry Pieper was one nephew who was named after both twins. His father died before he knew that his missing brother had been found. Those two brothers will be lost to each other for eternity.

The nephew said, “He knew that one of his brothers was buried in Normandy and the other one was unknown.” “It was always a wound in his heart not knowing where his brother was, so he never talked about it.” Niece Linda Pieper Suitor was presented with the flag. Amidst her tears, she explained how the ceremony has changed her life.

“I think I’ve found a new purpose in my life. I’m going home and I’m going to visit high schools and share this story and make sure students know about this history project. I’m going to tell them what it’s meant to me and my family.”

Nebraska WWII Medal Of Honor Recipient



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 7 May 1945.

Cool and courageous in combat, Pvt. Hansen unhesitatingly took the initiative during a critical stage of the action and armed with a rocket launcher, crawled to an exposed position where he attacked and destroyed a strategically located hostile pillbox. With his weapon subsequently destroyed by enemy fire, he seized a rifle and continued his one-man assault. Reaching the crest of a ridge, he leaped across, opened fire on six Japanese, and killed four before his rifle jammed.

Attacked by the remaining two Japanese, he beat them off with the butt of his rifle and then climbed back to cover. Promptly returning with another weapon and supply of grenades, he fearlessly advanced, destroyed a strong mortar position, and annihilated eight more of the enemy.

In the forefront of battle throughout this bitterly waged engagement, Pvt. Hansen, by his indomitable determination, bold tactics, and complete disregard of all personal danger, contributed essentially to the success of his company's mission and to the ultimate capture of this fiercely defended outpost of the Japanese Empire. His great personal valor in the face of extreme peril reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- **ACCREDITED TO:** NEBRASKA
- **AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY:** YES
- **PRESENTATION DATE & DETAILS:** MAY 30, 1946
PRESENTED TO HIS PARENTS AT WISNER, NEBRASKA BY USMC RECRUITING OFFICE
- **BORN:** DECEMBER 13, 1922, WISNER, CUMING COUNTY, NE, UNITED STATES
- **DIED:** MAY 11, 1945, OKINAWA, RYUKYU ISLANDS
- **BURIED:** WISNER CEMETERY (MH) (11-88-F), WISNER, NE, UNITED STATES



Lincoln VAG eAlert

A Message from Your Veterans Advisory Group!

VAG Lincoln Coffeehaus!



**JOIN US ON
FRIDAY!**

A CoffeeHaus Event has been scheduled for the third Friday each month from 10:00 AM to Noon, at Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park

In addition, Quilts of Valor Ladies will be awarding quilts to Veterans touched by war, and the presentation begins at Noon.

CoffeeHaus is a monthly gathering to honor our Veterans, with **FREE** Coffee, Beverages, Snacks, Fellowship, and Entertainment.

Join us - reach out and bring a guest too!

OUR SPONSOR

The Sponsor for CoffeeHaus is the Elks Lodge #80.



MORE INFORMATION!

For a Calendar of Upcoming VAG Events, visit our Website, at www.VAGLincoln.org!

LINCOLN

Buddy Check

"TOGETHER ENDING VETERAN SUICIDE"

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

MONTHLY ON THE 22ND

At 'Rock-n-Joe' Coffee Bar

5025 Lindberg Street

6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

reducing and eliminating Veteran suicide. We continue our service by gathering with fellow Veterans. We call and reach out to those who served at our side. We stood together then, and we stand together now.

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

At Ease

39th Annual Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Reunion

August 8th thru Sunday, August
11th, 2024

Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker
Hotel

333 South 13th Street - Lincoln,
NE.

402-399-9000

For registration forms, update
schedules, and hotel information,

go to: vetsreunion.com

Contact information:

Jaime Obrecht 402-486-4010

Roy Schoen 402-477-9113

Sons Of The American Legion Application



To be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion, you must be a male descendant (son, grandson, stepson, or adopted son) of:

- A member of The American Legion, or
- A veteran who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, or
- A veteran who died after their honorable discharge from such service, and
- Return the application below along with \$35.00 to:

Sons of The American Legion
ATTN: Brendan Moore
123 South 84th Street, Suite L
Lincoln, Ne. 68510

Sons of The American Legion Membership Application

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth Date _____ Date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____
(First) (Initial) (Last) (Initial) (Last)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

E-mail Address _____ Telephone _____

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No _____, Dept. of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of Applicant to Veteran _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, apply for membership, and transmit \$ _____ as annual membership dues.

Signed _____
(By Applicant or Parent)

Eligibility certified by _____
(Post Adjutant)

00-001 (2014)

RECEIPT


Date _____ Received of _____

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 20 _____ in _____

For God and Country

Squadron _____ Detachment of _____

By _____



Become a Member of The American Legion

Do you want to help your community and fellow Veterans by becoming a member of the American Legion? Would you want to help recruit a new member? If you can certify that you served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941, and were honorably discharged or are currently serving honorably, you are eligible. Complete the application below and send it with a check in the amount of \$46.00 to:

American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th Street, Suite L
Lincoln, Ne 68510

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) (Date of Birth)

(Mailing Address) (Phone Number)

(City) (State) (Zip) (Post #)

(E-mail) Male Female (Gender) (Dues)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.
Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	



30-009 Signature of applicant Date Name of recruiter

To renew or transfer to Post 3, you only need to sign below and mail this and a check for \$46 made out to “American Legion Post 3” to the address listed above. If you have already renewed for 2024, and want to transfer to Post 3, only sign below and return the bottom portion to us.

YES! Please transfer my membership to Lincoln American Legion Post 3

Signature

Membership Number

Email address



**American Legion Post 3
123 South 84th St. Suite L
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 466-3958**

Email: Post3legionlincoln@gmail.com

[Web Site: lincolnpost3.org](http://lincolnpost3.org)

2023 - 2024 Post 3 Officers

Commander – Bruce Gubser – Cell: 402-470-1700

First Vice Commander – Ron Hindmand – Cell: 254-291-1514

Second Vice Commander – Rich Lemmerman – Cell: 402-694-9834

Adjutant & Post Service Officer – Ed Schnabel – Cell: 402-480-8542

Chaplain – William Jackson – Cell: 402-613-9774

Please submit any announcements or items for the monthly newsletter to the Editor for approval. All requests must be received one week before the 1st of the month.

